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6/17/98

OUTGOING MESSAGE

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SUBJECT: SOVIET ACTIVITIES ON A WEST GERMAN ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE
IN BERLIN

THE US EMBASSY IN MOSCOW HAS COMMENTED ON SOVIET ACTIVITIES
TOWARD THE ESTABLISHMENT BY SOVIET OF A FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL
AGENCY IN WEST BERLIN. THE EMBASSY JUDGES THAT THE SOVIETS
ARE SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE ACQUISITION OF AN OFFICIAL SOVIET
GERMAN PRESENCE IN WEST BERLIN. WHILE THE ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY
PER SE IS PROBABLY NOT SO IMPORTANT TO THEM, THEY SEEM INTERESTED
IN GAINING ALLIED ASSURANCES THAT IT WILL NOT BE A PRECEDENT.

THE EMBASSY THINKS THE SOVIETS DO NOT WANT A CONFRONTATION
OVER BERLIN BECAUSE OF THEIR COMMITMENT TO IMPROVED RELATIONS
WITH THE FRG AND US. THEY SAY THEREFORE BE OPENABLE TO A
COMPROMISE THAT LIMITS THE PLACE AND SCOPE OF FEDERAL TIES WITH

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BEST DENIAL. IF THEY FAIL TO GET AT LEAST THAT. HOWEVER, THE
ENEMY EXPECTS FURTHER (THOUGH) PROBABLY ANTISUBMINE INTERFERENCE
WITH TRANSIT ROUTES.

SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION: V CIP DIV AND DIS

SECRET REPORTS OF A NEW (THOUGH) PROBABLY
IN BERLIN

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